(3) Coverage and its norms, technology options, source and system sustainability, water quality monitoring and surveillance:

* The distance of water source should be 0.5 kilometre instead of 1.6 kilometre and 30 metres elevation instead of 100 metres in hilly areas to lessen the drudgery of carrying water from distant source.

* In hilly areas, the population criteria should be relaxed to cover habitations with 50 persons or more or more than 10 households to all.

* There is need for earmarking funds for rooftop/catchment based rainwater harvesting and this water may be treated as coverage as distinguished from recharging of ground water.

* Women and youth of rural areas be trained to operate and maintain water supply systems. Manuals/guidelines be developed for this purpose.

* Distribution systems be improved for minimizing the leakages. States should come up with means to prevent leakages in the distribution systems to make it economical with cost recovery.

* Good production centres/sanitary marts/self-help groups, etc. should be utilized for supply of spare parts, training of local rural youth and women as mechanics for Operation & Maintenance of water sources and also involved in water quality monitoring and maintenance.

(4) Some of the States have requested for the funding pattern of ARWSP between Centre and State to be in the ratio of 75:25 and North Eastern States have requested for this ratio to be 90:10 for consideration of the Government.

World Bank Report on India's water supply and sanitation

2381. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank had released a draft report on "India's Water Supply and Sanitation," recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Governments reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) The report"India-Water Supply and Sanitation" has been released by World Bank on February 15, 2006.

The report has acknowledged the action taken by the Government in respect of urban and rural water supply and sanitation and has highlighted the efforts made towards achieving the "Millennium Development Goals" targets. In this regard, the report, however, mentions that the access to reliable, sustainable, and affordable water supply and sanitation service is lagging behind. The report further states that the true challenge is not to increase access to infrastructure to almost 100% of the population, but to increase access to reliable, sustainable and affordable service and that India is unlike to be able to meet this objective unless it adjusts policies, institutional arrangement, and financial incentives to help improve service delivery and build the capacity now lacking.

(c) The World Bank Report has been examined by the Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development and its view as conveyed to the World Bank are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Views of department of drinking water supply, Ministry of Rural Development on the report "India—water supply and sanitation" as conveyed to World Bank

The projections made by the World Bank in Table II-Expenditure required to meet the MGD target-on page 14 of the Report indicates that the spending requirement for the period 2007-12 and 2012-17 will be less than what was spent in 2002-07. It appears that while making projections. World Bank has not taken into account the efforts initiated by the Government of India for building rural infrastructure.

As you are aware, water supply and sanitation are dynamic sectors where changes take place from year to year because of natural causes like depletion in ground water, floods, drought etc. Keeping this in mind, Govt. of India has increased investment in the water supply sector by about 40% over the last year, raising it from Rs. 2900 crore to Rs. 4050 crore in 2005-06. Further, under the Bharat Nirman, the aim is to cover uncovered habitations, slipped back habitations and habitations affected by poor water quality.

We have so far been in the infrastructure creation phase so that millions of our population can get safe drinking water. This phase, as I mentioned earlier, is dynamic because of various factors and will have to be on-going. However, we have also embarked on the consolidation phase, where issues like reliability, sustainability and affordability are being addressed. As far as reliability is concerned, we are taking measures for recharge of ground water and shift to conjunctive use of surface and ground water. As far as sustainability issues are concerned, the Govt. of India has given pre-eminence to this, as can be seen by the large number of water shed programmes being run by the Ministry of Rural Development, Agriculture and Environment and Forests. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) has also given water recharge and storage structures prime importance under the activities to be conducted under this Act. As far as affordability issues are concerned, we expect that increasing community participation in the selection and planning for the schemes would take care of these issues.

As regards rural sanitation, in keeping with the objectives of the Government to increase sanitation coverage all over the country, it is likely that the funds in this regard would also be increasing over time. Allocations have increased by 75% over the past year from Rs. 400 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 700 crore in 2005-06. While in the initial stages, naturally, we had to concentrate on providing infrastructure for sanitation, we had in tandem also taken up peoples awareness campaigns, with the idea of making this a people's movement and for the changing attitudes and mind sets, and assigned a major role for Panchayats and Local Institutions for social mobilizations, so that total sanitation becomes a people's movement.

Water sources in the country

2382. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been undertaken to find the known sources of water around the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) to (c) The Primary source of water resources in the country is precipitation which includes rainfall and snowfall in its various forms. The availability of